

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 M-02

A-01 OPR-02 SY-04 IO-14 SCCT-02 AID-20 OMB-01 SAM-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 6100

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7369

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TU

SUBJECT: LIKELY FALL OF TURKISH GOVERNMENT

REF: ANKARA 7340

1. PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT IN A SEPTEMBER 16 PRESS CONFERENCE
(STILL IN PROGRESS) MADE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. HE IS POSTPONING HIS PLANNED TRIP TO SCANDINAVIAN
COUNTRIES.

B. HE WILL RECOMMEND TOMORROW, SEPTEMBER 17,
RESIGNATION OF THE CABINET AT TWO SESSIONS OF HIS OWN
PARTY (RPP): FIRST, AT THE PARTY GOVERNING ASSEMBLY AT 3 P.M.,
AND SECOND TO THE PARTY PALIAMENTARY GROUP LEADERS AT 8 P.M.

C. IF THESE GROUPS AGREE, (WHICH THEY WILL), ECEVIT WILL
RESIGN AS PRIME MINISTER.

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2. ECEVIT SAID, IN THIS CONTINUING PRESS CONFERENCE, THAT

IF HE RECEIVED NECESSARY AGREEMENT TO RESIGN AS PRIME MINISTER HE WOULD SEEK NOW PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION.

3. DURING TIME OF PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE, I WAS HAVING LUNCH WITH SULEYMAN DEMIREL, LEADER OF JUSTICE PARTY, THE MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTY IN TURKEY. DEMIREL TOLD ME (A) THERE IS A SERIOUS GOVERNMENT CRISIS, (B) THERE WILL BE NO ELECTION UNTIL NEXT SPRING AT THE EARLIEST, AND (C) THERE WILL BE NO MINORITY GOVERNMENT IN THE INTERIM. ON THE LATTER POINT, DEMIREL SAID "WE WILL KILL IT." DEMIREL SEEMED TO FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS A REAL CHANCE THAT ECEVIT COULD WORK OUT A NEW COALITION WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF FERRUH BUZBEYLI. (THIS PARTY HAS APPROXIMATELY THE SAME STRENGTH IN THE PARLIAMENT AS ERBAKAN'S NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY.) DEMIREL ALSO TOLD ME THAT WHETHER OR NOT THERE WERE ELECTIONS NEXT SPRING WOULD DEPEND ON THE STRENGTH OF THE NEW COALITION WHICH ECEVIT WOULD BE ABLE TO PUT TOGETHER.

4. COMMENT: THE BETTING HERE IS THAT ECEVIT WILL EMERGE AS A LEADER OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND MOST OF OUR SOURCES BELIEVE THERE IS ALREADY AN ECEVIT-BOZBEYLI AGREEMENT REGARDING ITS FORMATION. FURTHER, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE TALK THAT THE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD SOON, PROBABLY IN THE FORTHCOMING NOVEMBER-DECEMBER PERIOD OR AT THE LATEST NEXT SPRING. THE SETTING OF AN ELECTION CAN BE DECIDED BY A MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT AND IF BOZBEYLI AND ECEVIT CAN GET TOGETHER ON THIS, DEMIREL AND THE JUSTICE PARTY'S WISHES ARE IRRELEVANT.

5. EVEN IF, AS IS PRESENTLY EXPECTED, ECEVIT AGAIN EMERGES AS THE HEAD OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, THE PROCESS OF A) WORKING OUT A PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NEW COALITION PARTNERS, B) HAVING THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED PROGRAM DEBATED IN PARLIAMENT AND C) OBTAINING A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL ALL TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME. IN THE MEANTIME, ECEVIT IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN AS PRIME MINISTER OF A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT UNTIL THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS FORMED.

6. IF ECEVIT IS SUCCESSFUL IN WORKING OUT A COALITION WITH BOZBEYLI AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, HE WILL HAVE ACQUIRED
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A MUCH MORE RESPECTABLE AND SANER PARTNER. BUT WHILE THIS POTENTIAL COALITION SHOULD BE CONSIDERABLY EASIER TO LEAD THAN THE EARLIER ONE, THE DIFFERENCES IN ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHIES BETWEEN THE PERSPECTIVE NEW PARTNERS ARE SIGNIFICANT ONES. WE DOUBT, THEREFORE, THAT THIS NEW ARRANGEMENT WILL BE THE EASIEST OF RELATIONSHIPS EITHER. ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS CHANGE MAY TURN OUT TO BE A SMALL PLUS WITH RESPECT TO THE CYPRUS SITUATION. NO PARTY IN TURKEY IS VERY

FLEXIBLE ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT NO PARTY COULD BE QUITE AS
INFLEXIBLE AS ERBAKAN'S.
MACOMBER

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